

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Xiang Dong LIU et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634

Application No.: 10/542,430

Examiner: R. CROW

Filed: July 15, 2005

Docket No.: 124715

For: METHOD OF CONCENTRATING AND REMOVING HARMFUL SUBSTANCE  
USING DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA AND ADSORBENT AND APPARATUS  
THEREFOR

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 23, 2007 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claim 3, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Patent Office's allegation that Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept. All of claims 2-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, all of claims 1-6 clearly include the same special technical feature. During examination, it will become clear that the common special technical feature(s) of the claims define a contribution over the prior art. Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn at this time.

Further, pursuant to MPEP §821.04(b), upon allowance of Group II (claim 3), directed to a product, at least Group I (claims 1 and 2), directed to a method of using the product, should be rejoined and similarly allowed.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-6 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 23, 2007

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